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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the refuge of all that are distressed, how appropriate for us to lift our hearts to You in the morning. You are our shield and the one who lifts our heads. You sit in the heavens and oversee the plans and activities of humanity. Lord, You are sovereign. The hearts of kings, queens, and presidents are in Your hands.

Help us to not be afraid of the challenges that confront this Nation or fear the forces that seem arrayed against us.

Arise, O God, and bless us with Your favor. Set us apart in Your joy. Teach us to put our trust in You that we may eat the bread of gladness. Lead our Senators today in the right paths. May they strive not for success but for faithfulness. Whatever this life may bring, keep their faith robust. Give us Your light, that we may have life.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN CORNYN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. TED STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. JOHN CORNYN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The first 30 minutes of that time will be under the control of Senator HUTCHISON, with the remaining 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee. Following the morning business period, the Senate will resume consideration of the Iraq and Afghanistan supplemental request. Also today, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the Democratic Party luncheon. The Republican policy meeting will occur tomorrow. Accordingly, we will recess to accommodate that luncheon as well.

When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 today, there will be 15 minutes of debate for closing remarks with respect to S. 1053, the genetic information non-discrimination bill. The vote on passage of S. 1053 will occur at 2:30. That will be the first vote of today's session.

Following that vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan. Additional rollcall votes can be expected.

I remind everyone that prior to the recess, the Democratic leader and I indicated the Senate will finish this bill by the close of business this week. Having said that, I believe Members have had adequate time to study the bill and draft amendments they believe may be necessary. If Senators desire to offer amendments, they should contact the bill managers and not delay until later in the week.

There are a number of important issues the Senate will address before completing our work in the coming weeks. I will have more to say about the schedule for these final weeks as we go forward. At this time, I expect the Senate should remain focused and complete action on the urgent and vital appropriations bill before the Senate.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip is recognized.

Mr. REID. If I could direct a question to the majority leader, it is my understanding we will have a break not only today, as has already been announced by the majority leader, but you are having your weekly caucus tomorrow, so tomorrow Members should be advised that from 12:30 to 2:30 the Republicans will be involved in their weekly party conferences; is that right?

Mr. FRIST. Through the Chair, that is correct. We will have recess during tomorrow's lunch as well as today.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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